UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/889
24 September 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

(24 March 1998-23 September 1998)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report provides an account of developments and activities in respect of the mandate entrusted to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), in accordance with Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) of 8 April 1991, 689 (1991) of 14 June 1991 and 806 (1993) of 5 February 1993. It covers the period from 24 March 1998 to 23 September 1998.

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

2. The situation in the demilitarized zone remained generally calm. During the period under review, UNIKOM carried out its normal operations without interruption.

3. The number of violations in the demilitarized zone dropped from 175 to 67 since my last report. In one violation, on 30 June, UNIKOM, while investigating an explosion reported by the Iraqi side, discovered fragments and the main body of a high-speed anti-radiation missile at a fuel storage located approximately 12 kilometres west of Umm Qasr on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone.

4. There were 19 ground violations. One violation involved a group of 21 Iraqi men, women and children who crossed the border into Kuwait seeking asylum. UNIKOM promptly informed the Kuwaiti and Iraqi authorities, as well as the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UNHCR representative interviewed the group and determined that they did not quality for refugee status. Accordingly, UNIKOM handed them over to the Iraqi authorities. Five unauthorized border crossings by Iraqi policemen and civilians and one by Kuwaiti policemen were recorded. An incident occurred when two uniformed military officers of the United States of America entered the demilitarized zone to visit UNIKOM headquarters in Iraq without obtaining prior permission from UNIKOM. They were stopped by UNIKOM guards before crossing the border to Iraq. The other 11 incidents were weapons

violations which included an incident of pointing of rifles by Iraqi policemen at a United Nations military observer; five firings of small arms on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone and one incident of firing by Kuwaiti policemen during hunting; and the sighting of weapons, once at a Kuwaiti police post and twice at Iraqi police posts.

5. There was one maritime violation in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway and 46 air violations. The maritime violation in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway was recorded when a civilian Iraqi vessel drifted across the border and ran aground at Warbah island. The 46 air violations mostly involved unidentified aircraft flying at high altitude. On 18 occasions, however, the aircraft were identified as A-6, F-14, F-16, F-18, Tornado, Black Hawk helicopter and C-130 military planes. Such aircraft are used by the coalition forces in the region, but the nationalities could not be identified.

6. UNIKOM also recorded several minor incidents mainly involving the throwing of stones at UNIKOM patrol vehicles by Iraqi children and the erection of small barricades on patrol roads on the Iraqi side by unknown persons. In one case, a Kuwaiti-registered vehicle belonging to a catering contractor engaged by UNIKOM erroneously crossed the border and was confiscated by the Iraqi police. UNIKOM is making efforts to retrieve the vehicle.

7. A total of 12 complaints were received, 9 from Kuwait and 3 from Iraq. Kuwait lodged complaints regarding four territorial violations and five maritime violations. The complaints from Iraq were about maritime violations. All these complaints could not be verified because of the time that had elapsed between the alleged incident and receipt of the complaint.

8. The number of vessels docking at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr increased from 125 to 135 since the last review. The vessels were under the 'oil-for-food' programme and their cargo consisted mainly of wheat, rice, sugar, beans, tea and ghee.

9. Oil-drilling activity was mainly concentrated on the Kuwaiti side at the Al-Ratqa oilfield. On the Iraqi side, drilling was stopped at Rumaylah owing to lack of spare parts for the rig. Recently, however, one rig started drilling on the Iraqi side of the Al-Ratqa oilfield.

10. The electric fence which Kuwait is erecting along the border has almost reached the southern limit of the demilitarized zone. The remote control system for the gates in the fence is, however, not yet operational. UNIKOM patrols encountered problems of access through the gates on 15 occasions, particularly during the months of April and May. This problem has now been resolved after discussions with the Kuwaiti authorities.

11. Construction work at the Warbah island project, which is aimed at improving UNIKOM's monitoring of the Khawr Abd Allah waterway, is continuing. The estimated completion time is the last quarter of 1998. The remaining work consists of the erection of a communications tower on Warbah island and the installation of a floating pier.

12. UNIKOM continued to dispose of unexploded mines and bomblets in the demilitarized zone. A total of 5,823 unexploded devices, including 1,489 bomblets, 311 rockets, 566 mortar bombs, among them a United States MK-84 bomb weighing 2,000 pounds, and 3,457 artillery and other rounds, were destroyed. Unexploded mines and other ordnance inside the demilitarized zone, mostly on the Iraqi side, continued to cause casualties among civilians living and working in the area.

13. UNIKOM provided security and logistic support for the meetings of the Technical Subcommittee on Military and Civilian Missing Prisoners of War and Mortal Remains, which were held under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 28 July and 31 August 1998. The meetings were conducted in the demilitarized zone, alternately at UNIKOM headquarters in Umm Qasr, Iraq, and at the UNIKOM support base at Camp Khor, Kuwait. ICRC representatives from Iraq and Kuwait, delegations from Iraq and Kuwait, and observers from France, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America attended the meetings.

14. UNIKOM continued to maintain close and regular liaison with the authorities of both Iraq and Kuwait at various levels, including through its liaison offices in Baghdad and Kuwait City. Both parties cooperated with the Mission in the conduct of its operations.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

15. As at 1 September 1998, the overall strength of UNIKOM was 1,304, as follows:

(a) A total of 195 military observers, from Argentina (4), Austria (6), Bangladesh (5), Canada (5), China (11), Denmark (5), Fiji (5), Finland (5), France (11), Ghana (6), Greece (5), Hungary (5), India (5), Indonesia (5), Ireland (6), Italy (5), Kenya (4), Malaysia (6), Nigeria (5), Pakistan (6), Poland (5), Romania (6), the Russian Federation (11), Senegal (5), Singapore (6), Sweden (5), Thailand (5), Turkey (7), the United Kingdom (11), the United States (11), Uruguay (6) and Venezuela (2);

(b) An infantry battalion of 772 from Bangladesh;

(c) An engineering unit of 50 from Argentina;

(d) A logistics unit of 34 from Austria;

(e) A helicopter unit of 35 from Bangladesh;

(f) A medical unit of 13 from Germany;

(g) A total of 205 civilian staff, of whom 58 were recruited internationally.

Major General Esa Tarvainen (Finland) continued as Force Commander.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

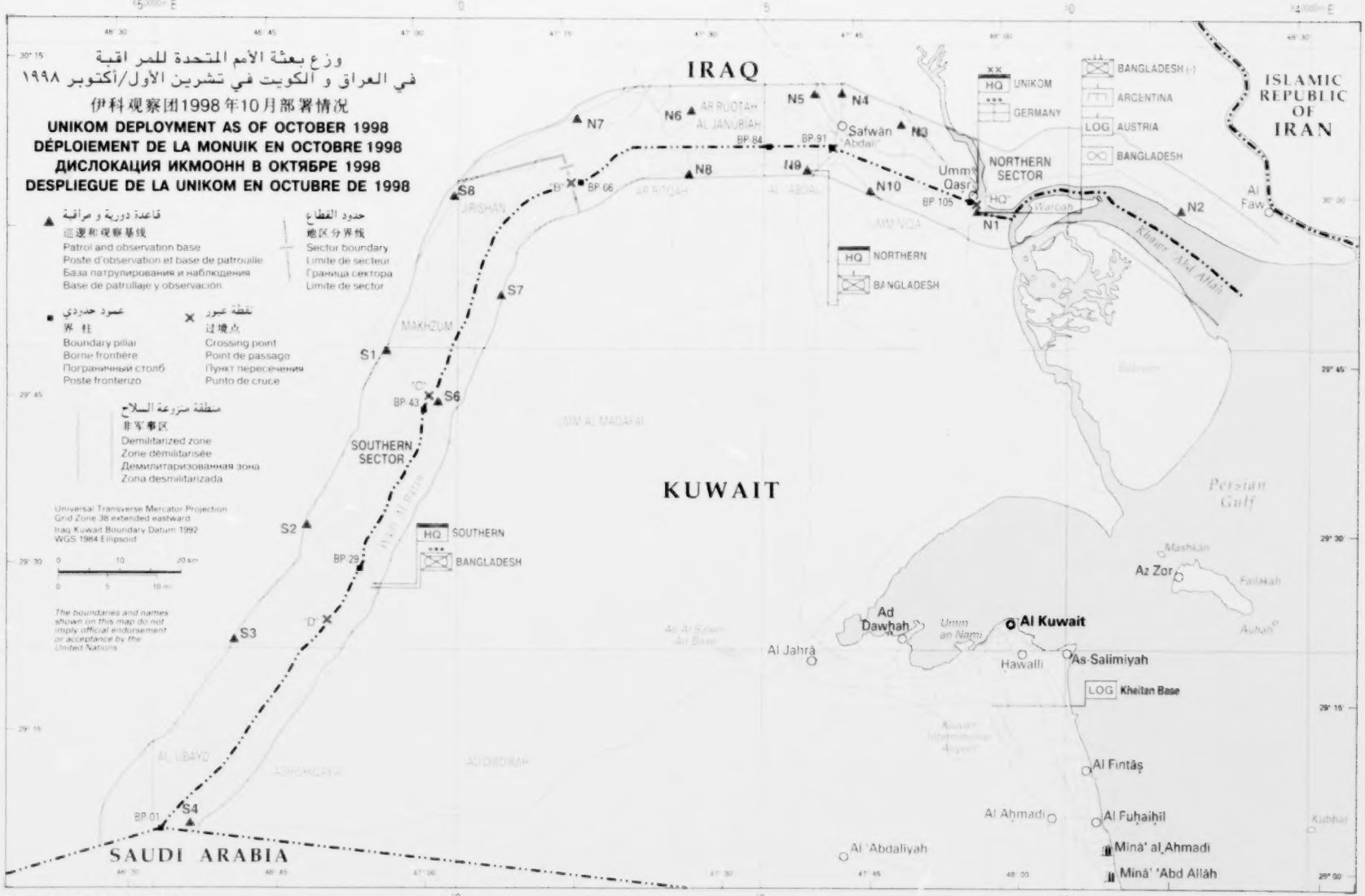
16. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/238 of 26 June 1998, appropriated $52,143,800 gross for the maintenance of UNIKOM for the period from 1 July 1998 to 31 June 1999, subject to review by the Security Council with regard to the question of termination or continuation of the Mission. Two thirds of the cost of the Mission, equivalent to $33.5 million, is to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait. Assessments on Member States have been made for the period ending 31 October 1998. The Government of Kuwait has paid its voluntary contributions in full through 30 June 1998 and an additional amount of $5.7 million has been paid through 31 October 1998.

17. As at 22 September 1998, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIKOM since the inception of the Mission through 31 October 1998 amounted to $14.8 million, representing some 6 per cent of the assessment for the Mission. The unpaid assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $1.8 billion.

V. OBSERVATIONS

18. During the past six months, UNIKOM continued to contribute to the maintenance of calm and stability in the demilitarized zone. The situation along the border was generally quiet. UNIKOM received the cooperation of the Kuwaiti and Iraqi authorities in discharging its duties. I recommend that the Mission be maintained.

19. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Tarvainen and the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have discharged their responsibilities. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.


وزع بعثة الأمم المتحدة للمراقبة
في العراق و الكويت في تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ١٩٩٨
伊科观察团1998年10月部署情况
UNIKOM DEPLOYMENT AS OF OCTOBER 1998
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA MONUIK EN OCTOBRE 1998
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ИКМООНН В ОКТЯБРЕ 1998
DESPLIEGUE DE LA UNIKOM EN OCTUBRE DE 1998
قاعدة دورية و مراقبة
巡逻和观察基线
Patrol and observation base
Poste d'observation et base de patrouille
База патрулирования и наблюдения
Base de patrullaje y observación
حدود القطاع
地区分界线
Sector boundary
Limite de secteur
Граница сектора
Límite de sector
عمود حدودي
界 柱
Boundary pillar
Borne frontière
Пограничный столб
Poste fronterizo
نقطة عبور
过境点
Crossing point
Point de passage
Пункт пересечения
Punto de cruce
منطقة منزوعة السلاح
非军事区
Demilitarized zone
Zone démilitarisée
Демилитаризованная зона
Zona desmilitarizada
Universal Transverse Mercator Projection
Grid Zone 38 extended eastward
Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Datum 1992
WGS 1984 Ellipsoid
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
IRAQ
KUWAIT
SAUDI ARABIA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
NORTHERN SECTOR
SOUTHERN SECTOR
HQ UNIKOM
GERMANY
BANGLADESH (-)
ARGENTINA
AUSTRIA
BANGLADESH
HQ NORTHERN
BANGLADESH
HQ SOUTHERN
BANGLADESH
LOG Kheitan Base
N1
N2
N3
N4
N5
N6
N7
N8
N9
N10
S1
S2
S3
S4
S6
S7
S8
BP 01
BP 29
BP 43
BP 66
BP 84
BP 91
BP 105
Safwān
Umm Qasr
Warqan
Al Faw
Az Zor
Mashkan
Failakah
Ad Dawhah
Umm an Namil
Al Kuwait
Al Jahrā
Hawalli
As Salimiyah
Al Fintās
Al Ahmadi
Al Fuhaihil
Kubbar
Al 'Abdaliyah
Mina' al Ahmadi
Mina' 'Abd Allāh
Persian Gulf
Khawr 'Abd Allāh
Kuwait International Airport
Ad Dibdibah
Al Liwayd
Zor Hamdan
Jabal Sanam
Umm al Madafi
Makhzum
Jarshan
Ar Ruqtah
Al Janubiah
Al 'Abdali
Al Wafrah
Az Zawr
Ash Shaqq
Ash Shaqq
Ash Shaqq